

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 073819

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, KN, KS

SUBJ: MALAYSIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

R F: KUALA LUMPUR 1586

1. ROKG HAS STRONGLY URGED THAT WE MAKE A REPRESENTATION TO GOM CONCERNING TIMING OF THEIR PLANS TO RECOGNIZE NORTH KOREA. BECAUSE OF EXCELLENT RELATIONS WHICH HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN ROK AND GOM, AS WELL AS MALAYSIA'S PAST MEMBERSHIP IN ASPAC, KOREANS FEAR THAT GOM'S ACTION COULD HAVE HARMFUL IMPACT ON OTHERS WHOM ROK ARE ATTEMPTING TO HOLD IN PLACE ON BOTH WHO AND RECOGNITION ISSUE. ASSUMING YOU PERCEIVE NO OVERRIDING OBJECTION, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO APPROACH THE GOM AT APPROPRIATE HIGH LEVEL REQUESTING IT TO DELAY EARLY RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA IN LIGHT OF THE FOLLOWING:

A. DESPITE OBSTACLES INVOLVED, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH OFFER CONSIDERABLE PROMISE OF REDUCING TENSIONS ON KOREAN PENINSULA AND CONSEQUENTLY NORTHEAST ASIA. THESE NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNDERTAKEN AT INITIATIVE OF SOUTH, WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN MORE AMENABLE TO COMPROMISE  
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NECESSARY TO FURTHER PROGRESS OF TALKS. SUPPORT OF KOREA BY FRIENDS AND ALLIES HAS BEEN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN LEADING ROK TO PURSUE TALKS.

B. WE CONCERNED THAT RECENT NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING RECOGNITION BY SEVERAL ROK FRIENDS HAS RESULTED IN PYONGYANG' S FEELING ITS POSITION STRENGTHENED VIS- A- VIS ROK AND HAS MADE NORTH LESS FORTHCOMING IN NORTH/ SOUTH TALKS. NORTH HAS BEEN BLOCKING PROGRESS IN TALKS SINCE BEGINNING 1973, AND HAS REVERTED TO HARD- LINE WHICH WAS IN EVIDENCE BEFORE TALKS STARTED IN EARLY 1972.

C. WE NOTE THAT STATES NOW RECOGNIZING ONLY NORTH KOREA HAVE SHOWN NO INCLINATION RECOGNIZE ROK. IF STATES FRIENDLY TO ROK RECOGNIZE NK, WHILE OTHER SIDE DOES NOT RECOGNIZE ROK, ADVANTAGE TURNS TO NORTH. A MORE BALANCED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT OF TREND TOWARD RECOGNITION BOTH KOREAS OFFERS GREATER INCENTIVE TOWARDS RESOLVING DIFFERENCES, AND ACCORDINGLY WE HOPE ROK FRIENDS CAN DELAY ANY POLICY CHANGES UNTIL NORTH KOREAN SUPPORTERS INDICATE SOME FLEXIBILITY.

D. THOUGH MALAYSIA APPEARS TO HAVE MADE A DECISION TO RECOGNIZE PYONGYANG, WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THE ELEMENT OF TIMING SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED IN LIGHT ABOVE CONCERNS AND WE HOPE SUCH ACTION CAN BE POSTPONED FOR PRESENT.

2. PLEASE ADVISE US OF ACTION TAKEN. ROGERS

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